

INDUSTRY ACCIDENT REPORT

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Each year, the Health and Safety Committee relies on the support of the association's member companies in supplying accurate data on accidents. This helps us to identify both trends in accidents and their possible causes, so as to help direct the Committee's work in helping the industry continue to provide a safe – and safer - working environment.

The Committee: wishes to thank companies for their continued support and all those individuals who have given their time to complete the survey; and hopes that this report generates discussion within safety committees and amongst senior management.

As last year, survey returns were provided by 20 companies, covering 38 flour mills and accounting for more than 97% of UK flour production.

The tables and charts on the following pages record the industry's accident statistics for the twelve-month period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The 'highlights' of this year's figures are:

- 'over 7-day accidents' up 4 from last year's record low of 16. However, the three-year average maintains its very slow decline;
- 7 of the 20 reportable accidents occurred off-site – and 24% of all slips and trips recorded also happened off-site;
- only one major injury was reported for the second year running – partial amputation of two fingers which came into contact with bran finisher beaters;
- a 25% rise in the total number of incidents, again from last year's record low, and the highest figure for four years;
- a substantial rise in the number of manual handling injuries, an unwelcome reversal of the long-term trend;
- increases in the number of incidents where the injured person came into contact with an object, either moving or stationary;
- a further reduction in the number of 'moving machinery' incidents.

The Committee is, of course, concerned by the increase in the number of incidents, and especially the fact that a significant number of accidents appear to be down to unsafe behaviour, e.g. lack of concentration, incorrect lifting technique etc.

On top of this concern is the perception that, in the last three months, individuals have been so focussed on Covid-19 and keeping safe in that context that they may be more inclined to be forgetful in terms of the fundamentals of safe behaviour. All companies are encouraged to address these concerns and to remind all employees, including management, of the fact that 'non-Covid risks' remain the same as ever and need at least the same rigorous management and procedures as before the pandemic.

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TABLES

The various tables in this report are described briefly below.

Table 1 sets out the number of reportable (over 7-day) accidents which happened over the last eight years. Although 2019-20 saw an increase from last year's record low, the overall trend for the last few years remains a very gradual decline.

Table 2 includes figures for non-reportable accidents for 2019-20 and presents a comparison with 2018-19.

Table 3 combines all accidents and looks at the figures for the last four years. The number of slips and trips fluctuates but that category remains the most frequent; manual handling and 'struck by moving object' incidents have shown the biggest increases. The 'all accident' figure is the highest for several years.

Tables 4 considers the locations of accidents and reveals that: the yard and mill are the most common accident locations but, this year, 24% of slips and trips occurred off site.

Table 5 studies falls and shows that they happen from a variety of starting points. Alas, ladders could not continue their two-year no-show.

Table 6 shows that the movement of machinery and other equipment account for around half of all manual handling incidents.

Table 7 confirms that machinery and equipment are also most likely to be involved in struck by / hitting incidents.

Tables 8 and 9 present the data on the occupations of those injured in accidents. Last year was a bad one for drivers: they were involved in half of reportable accidents and a quarter of all accidents.

Table 10 presents incident rates, so allowing benchmarking. Figures are given for the last four years for flour milling, food and drink manufacture, all manufacturing and all industries, drawn from survey returns and RIDDOR reports. The rates are calculated as incidents per 100,000 employees and show that flour milling is on a slow but erratic path down, and appears to be making more progress than food and drink manufacture as a whole – but we still suffer far more accidents than manufacturing in general and industry as a whole. (NB: For a number of reasons, the HSE prefers to use rates calculated from returns to the Labour Force Survey; however, these are not so easily comparable to our industry statistics.)

Tables 11 and 12 concern fires and dust explosions. It is a pleasing to report no dust explosions for yet another year, whilst serious fires remain thankfully rare.

Next year's survey will allow members to complete it online. This process will also allow us to restructure some of the questions in order to match better the analyses we are finding useful – without disrupting the trend data we have built up over the years.

Should you have any suggestions for the revised structure or content, please let us know by the end of October 2020.

TABLE 1**OVER 7 DAY ACCIDENTS: 2012-20**

On & Off Site	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13
Slips and Trips	6	5	6	12	9	3	8	10
Falls from Height	3	2	2	1	2	4	0	4
Manual Handling	5	2	2	3	4	2	3	3
Hitting Objects	4	3	4	1	4	3	3	6
Moving Machinery	2	3	5	1	2	3	1	2
Transport	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1
Hazardous Materials	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Hand Tools	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Electricity	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total Accidents	20	16	19	21	23	20	17	27

TABLE 2**INDUSTRY ACCIDENT STATISTICS: 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020**

	Over 7- day			Other		
	2019/20		(2018/19)	2019/20		(2018/19)
Slips/Trips	6	30%	(5; 31%)	55	20%	(69; 32%)
Falls from Height	3	15%	(2; 13%)	8	3%	(6; 3%)
Manual Handling	5	25%	(2; 13%)	51	19%	(27; 13%)
Struck by Moving Object	2	10%	(1; 6%)	45	17%	(28; 13%)
Hit Something Stationary	2	10%	(2; 13%)	51	19%	(40; 19%)
Moving Machinery	2	10%	(3; 19%)	2	1%	(5; 2%)
Transport	0	0%	(1; 6%)	5	2%	(4; 2%)
Hazardous Materials	0	0%	(0; 0%)	14	5%	(9; 4%)
Hand Tools	0	0%	(0; 0%)	4	1%	(4; 2%)
Other	0	0%	(0; 0%)	34	13%	(23; 11%)
TOTAL	20	100%	(16; 100%)	269	100%	(215; 100%)

TABLE 3**INDUSTRY ACCIDENT STATISTICS – All Incidents: 2016 - 2020**

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Slips/Trips	61 (21%)	74 (32%)	60 (22%)	75 (30%)
Falls from Height	11 (4%)	8 (3%)	13 (5%)	10 (4%)
Manual Handling	56 (19%)	29 (13%)	37 (14%)	37 (15%)
Struck by Moving Object	47 (16%)	29 (13%)	39 (14%)	33 (13%)
Hit Something Stationary	53 (18%)	42 (18%)	42 (15%)	46 (18%)
Moving Machinery	4 (1%)	8 (3%)	23 (8%)	10 (4%)
Transport	5 (2%)	5 (2%)	5 (2%)	5 (2%)
Hazardous Materials	14 (5%)	9 (4%)	10 (4%)	7 (3%)
Hand Tools	4 (1%)	4 (2%)	8 (3%)	9 (4%)
Other	34 (12%)	23 (10%)	34 (13%)	20 (8%)
TOTAL	289 (100%)	231 (100%)	271 (100%)	252 (100%)

TABLE 4: Where did the accident occur?

	<u>Slip/trip</u>		<u>Struck by / Hit</u>		<u>Manual Handling</u>	
	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>(2018/19)</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>(2018/19)</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>
Yard	25%	(21%)	29%	(17%)	22%	(16%)
Mill	19%	(40%)	26%	(39%)	28%	(48%)
Warehouse	0%	(8%)	9%	(14%)	6%	(16%)
Packing	11%	(9%)	11%	(6%)	15%	(16%)
Silo	2%	(4%)	0%	(3%)	7%	(4%)
Workshop	6%	(4%)	7%	(2%)	4%	(0%)
Laboratory	-	-	4%	(8%)	2%	(0%)
Off-Site	24%	(9%)	-	-	7%	(0%)
Other	13%	(4%)	14%	(11%)	9%	(0%)
TOTAL	100%	(100%)	100%	(100%)	100%	(100%)

TABLE 5: From where did the falls occur?

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Ladder	12%	0	0	27%	33%
Stairs	17%	24%	41%	9%	7%
Mobile Steps / Platform	17%	12%	18%	9%	0%
Bulk vehicle	17%	8%	18%	9%	20%
Bag vehicle	17%	15%	6%	18%	7%
Grain vehicle	6%	0	12%	0	7%
Other vehicle	6%	8%	0	9%	7%
Other	6%	35%	6%	18%	20%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 6: What was being handled when the manual handling accidents occurred?

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
Machinery	25%	16%	26%	27%	21%	26%
Pallets	15%	12%	3%	10%	9%	10%
Other equipment	23%	24%	21%	50%	23%	23%
Full flour sacks	15%	16%	9%	7%	17%	19%
Empty sacks/bags	9%	12%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Other	13%	20%	38%	3%	28%	19%

TABLE 7: What objects were involved in the struck by /hit incidents?

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Machinery / Equipment	50%	39%	40%	49%	42%
Structure (eg building)	9%	18%	7%	10%	14%
Fork-lift Truck	9%	7%	7%	10%	9%
Other Vehicle	6%	8%	10%	7%	12%
Door or Similar	9%	14%	18%	7%	6%
Pallet	6%	1%	4%	6%	6%
Bags / Sacks	0	0	0	0	3%
Other	12%	11%	14%	11%	9%

TABLE 8: Occupation of Injured Person

	Over 7-day			Other		
	<u>2019/20</u>		<u>(2017/18)</u>	<u>2019/20</u>		<u>(2018/19)</u>
Driver / Mate	10	50%	(38%)	64	24%	(18%)
Miller / Production	2	10%	(19%)	40	15%	(22%)
Warehouseman	3	15%	(19%)	28	11%	(12%)
Maintenance	2	10%	(6%)	39	15%	(13%)
Cleaner	1	5%	(13%)	25	9%	(8%)
Packer	0	0%	(6%)	29	11%	(10%)
Office	0	0%	(0%)	5	2%	(2%)
Laboratory	1	0%	(0%)	11	4%	(2%)
Contractor	0	0%	(0%)	12	5%	(8%)
Other	1	5%	(0%)	13	5%	(4%)

TABLE 9: Occupation of Injured Person – All Incidents 2016-19

	<u>2019/20</u>	2018/19	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Driver / Mate	74 (26%)	42 (19%)	53 (20%)	60 (24%)
Miller / Production	42 (15%)	47 (21%)	43 (16%)	40 (16%)
Maintenance	41 (14%)	28 (13%)	33 (12%)	35 (14%)
Cleaner	26 (9%)	19 (9%)	27 (10%)	29 (12%)
Warehouseman	31 (11%)	28 (13%)	23 (9%)	23 (9%)
Packer	29 (10%)	21 (10%)	24 (9%)	20 (8%)
Office / Laboratory	17 (6%)	10 (5%)	31 (12%)	20 (8%)
Contractor / Other	26 (9%)	25 (11%)	34 (13%)	23 (9%)

TABLE 10: Incidence Rates: 2014-20

Non-fatal injury incidence rate per 100,000 employees Sources:
UK Flour Millers Survey and HSE RIDDOR reports

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Flour Milling	800	640	760	840	920	800
All Food & Drink Manufacture	-	930	982	887	909	919
All Manufacturing	-	468	465	471	466	492
All Industries	-	254	265	267	277	297

TABLE 11: Explosion and Fire: 2014-20

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Dust Explosion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fire *	2	2	2	1	2	1

* Fire resulting in injury or more than 4 hours' lost production.

TABLE 12: Where did the serious fires occur?

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Rollermill	1	2	0	0	1	0
Pellet Press	0	0	0	0	1	1
Heat Treatment	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wheat Silo	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fork Lift Truck	0	0	1	0	0	0
Electrics	1	0	0	0	0	0

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